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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE; NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHIE; DEPT FOR
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TAGS: [KWBC](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [GZ](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: SETTLERS INJURE THREE PALESTINIANS IN
THE WEST BANK, A FOURTH IS INJURED BY AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE;
PALESTINIANS SHOOT AT IDF APC IN THE GAZA STRIP, BUT NO
INJURIES -- APRIL 15, 2005 (1300 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

11. (SBU) Summary: Four Palestinians were injured and one
 Hamas activist was arrested in the West Bank April 14. In
 the Gaza Strip, Palestinians fired five rockets, two at Neve
 Dekalim and three at Netzarim, but no injuries resulted,
 according to UNRWA. The IDF reported that Palestinians shot
 at an armored personnel carrier west of Khan Yunis April 14,
 but no injuries occurred. End Summary.

West Bank

(SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injury: A Palestinian minor on April 14 sustained injuries
 in Dura village, west of Hebron, when an abandoned explosive
 device detonated in his hands, according to Palestinian media
 sources. The Palestinian security forces are investigating
 the circumstances of the incident, as well as the possibility
 that the minor was transporting the device at the time of the
 explosion.

-- Injury: A Palestinian sustained injuries April 14 when
 bullets struck the windshield of his car as he traveled along
 route 60, near Hebron. The Palestinian driver claimed that
 Israeli settlers fired upon his vehicle.

-- Injuries: Two Palestinians sustained light injuries April
 14 after Israeli settlers in Hebron threw stones at a group
 of Palestinians (See &Settler Violence8).

(SBU) ARRESTS/SECURITY:

-- Arrest: The IDF arrested a wanted Hamas activist in Hebron
 April 14, according to Israeli newspapers. During the
 operation, the IDF discovered a handgun and ammunition in the
 man,s apartment.

-- Security: The IDF April 14 discovered approximately 6,000
 rounds of ammunition in an abandoned vehicle, according to
 Israeli radio. The discovery took place after an
 unidentified man abandoned the vehicle at the Ein Siniya
 checkpoint, north of Ramallah. The IDF subsequently launched
 a search for the individual.

-- Settler Violence: Palestinians living in Bani Na'im
 village and the al-Arrub refugee camp, both near Hebron, on
 April 14 claimed that Israeli settlers damaged at least three
 vehicles, according to Palestinian newspapers. In addition,
 Israeli settlers threw stones at Palestinians in the old city
 of Hebron, near the Tel Rumaydah settlement.

-- Arrests: The IDF April 15 entered Bethlehem and arrested
 three PFLP activists in the Aidah and Bayt Jabrin refugee
 camps, according to PA security sources.

-- Arrest: The IDF April 14 arrested a Palestinian member of
 the National Security Forces in Jayyus, east of Qalqiliya,
 according to PA security sources.

-- Arrest: The IDF arrested on April 14 a Fatah Tanzim
 activist in Deir Ballut, northwest of Ramallah, according to
 Palestinian newspapers.

-- Security Incident: Members of the al-Aqsa Martyrs,
 Brigades on April 14 rampaged in Tulkarm following the
 killing that same day of an al-Aqsa member in Nablus,
 according to Palestinian newspapers. The PA security forces
 eventually took control of the situation.

-- Security Incident: A Palestinian bodyguard employed by the
 governor of Ramallah on April 12 fired his weapon at a
 Ramallah hospital when he was denied access to visit a

relative after visiting hours, according to Palestinian newspapers. Hospital staff complained to the governor, but no action was taken against the bodyguard. In response, hospital staff organized a strike on April 14 to protest the incident.

(SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmud Abbas is scheduled to travel on April 17 to Jordan and Egypt for high-level meetings. Abbas is expected to return to Ramallah on April 19.

-- The al-Aqsa Martyrs, Brigades on April 14 circulated leaflets in Ramallah stating that the truce with Israel had ended following the killing of an al-Aqsa member in Nablus that same day. According to Palestinian sources, senior PA officials are working with members of al-Aqsa and other wanted activists to ensure that there is no reaction to the April 14 killing. During the evening of April 14, PA Preventive Security officers collected a number of the leaflets that were distributed earlier that day in Ramallah.

-- Palestinian and Israeli media on April 15 reported that PA President Abbas has given orders to consolidate the PA security services into three branches under the Ministry of Interior. Abbas also instructed that contacts between the PA security chiefs and foreign countries be initiated through the Interior Ministry.

Gaza

(SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Mortars/Rockets: According to UNRWA, five rockets were fired overnight April 14-15, two at Neve Dekalim and three at Netzarim, but no injuries were reported.

-- Shootings: Palestinians shot at an IDF armored personnel carrier April 15 west of Khan Yunis, but no injuries occurred.

-- Explosions: Nil.

(SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

(SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open April 15, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction. Abu Khouli checkpoint was open.

-- Erez Crossing was open for internationals and for a limited number of Palestinians April 14, and 4,623 laborers and 331 merchants crossed into Israel.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open April 14 and 659 laborers entered.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed April 15.

-- Karni Terminal was open, but operating slowly April 15.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures April 15.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed April 15. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi, except for males aged 16-30.

(SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- Israeli media reported April 15 that the IDF has instructed its officers to negotiate agreements with settlers for them to surrender their weapons prior to Gaza disengagement in July.

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